

MINUTES  
TOWN OF GROTON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MARCH 2, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.  
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: Nado, Cole, Sarasin, Vaughn  
Alternates Present: None  
Staff: Vandenbosch, Galetta

Chairman Nado called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Cole read the Call of the Hearing.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

HDC 10-05 – 0 Pearl Street (3 Pearl Street); Three Pearl Street LLC, owner; Spyros Barres, applicant; Awning. PIN #261918317086 – Continued

Julie Heirlein of Stonington presented to the Commission regarding an awning on the building at 0 Pearl Street owned by Spyros Barres. She is relocating her shop, The Art Garden, to 3 Pearl Street and she would put a black awning on the building over her shop. The awning is being used primarily for advertising purposes. She is proposing an above the window awning that is 12' in length and 30" deep. The Commission stated that using the mortar joints is preferable for attaching the awning to building. The awning placement was discussed.

The following exhibits were presented:

- Photograph
- Awning information

Chairman Nado asked for comments in favor or against and there were none. The public hearing closed at 7:56 p.m.

HDC 10-06 – 27 West Main Street; Jerome Properties 27-29 LLC, owner; Cameron Bortz, applicant; Signage. PIN #261918400894

Cameron Bortz presented to the Commission to propose replacing an existing sign at 27 West Main Street. He is representing Mystic Psychic. The new sign will be the exact same size and in the same location. The only change will be to the graphics. The sign will be carved with a gilded edge.

The following exhibits were presented:

- Photograph
- Graphic drawing

Chairman Nado asked for comments in favor or against and there were none. The public hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

HDC 10-07 – 17 Burrows Street; Elaine M. Cole, owner/applicant; Windows. PIN #261918215161

Historic District Commission member Elaine Cole, owner of 17 Burrows Street, recused herself then presented to the Commission to propose replacing six existing windows in her home. The home was built in 1955 and the current windows were replaced prior to 1995 using plastic interior grills. She would like to upgrade to windows with muntons between the glass. The window brand is Renewal by Andersen. She will also upgrade the windows from vinyl clad to a composite material. The original window frame will be left in place. The Commission felt that exterior muntons would be more favorable but the proposal is an upgrade from what currently exists and the house is modern in appearance. The Commission questioned whether an alternative had been considered.

The following exhibits were presented:

- Photographs
- Window brochure

Chairman Nado asked for comments in favor or against and there were none. The public hearing closed at 7:32 p.m.

## II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 10-05 – 0 Pearl Street (3 Pearl Street)

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with stipulations.

Motion made by Vaughn, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously. Issued Certificate of Appropriateness #1729.

HDC 10-06 – 27 West Main Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Cole, seconded by Vaughn, so voted unanimously. Issued Certificate of Appropriateness #1730.

HDC 10-07 – 17 Burrows Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Vaughn, seconded by Sarasin, 3 in favor, 1 abstention (Cole). Motion passed. Issued Certificate of Appropriateness #1731.

## III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Robert Robotham of Crossroads Builders appeared before the Commission regarding 7 Gravel Street, which is owned by GRVL, LLC. A walkway is being added to give owners access to the rear of the property. He is proposing a 5-foot, wrought iron gate that would allow access for the owners, but deter others from using the walkway and gaining admittance to the property. The gate will have a latch but no lock. The Commission had concerns because of the exclusionary nature of a gate. The Commission also had concerns about the height of the gate and the setback from the building. There will also be propane tanks visible from the back yard. The use of an

outbuilding to hide the propane tanks and perhaps house the trash receptacles was discussed. A lattice work barrier for the same purpose was also discussed. Additionally, the addition of a 4 to 5-foot privacy fence was discussed. The Commission felt that a 3 to 4-foot fence would be more appropriate.

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Staff distributed a memorandum from Michael J. Murphy, Director of OPDS, regarding an ethics training workshop the Town is hosting on April 29, 2010. Director Murphy is recommending that Commission members take advantage of this educational opportunity.

#### V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 16, 2010

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 16, 2010

Motion made by Cole, seconded by Sarasin, so voted unanimously.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

The Commission requested the status of 23 Library Street. Staff did not have any updates.

Staff told the Commission that the Town has heard from the Court and a tentative hearing date for the Desmarais Appeal is March 10, 2010.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission had concerns regarding the house being built at 208 High Street. Staff talked with the owner Jonathan Rogers earlier this week. Mr. Rogers will double check to make sure the house is being built according to the plans filed with HDC. If something has changed he will make it right or come back to the Commission for additional approvals.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. made by Vaughn, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

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Elaine Cole, Secretary  
Historic District Commission

Prepared by Lynda C. Galetta, Office Assistant II